Depot Town Rag

Volume 13, Number 12 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

100% FREE Rag content

December 1990

- **Breakfasts**
- **Neon, quilts, brunch**
- *Demographics*
- **City officials respond**
- Top 10 of the '80s

. . . and other strictly local stuff

Victorian Holiday

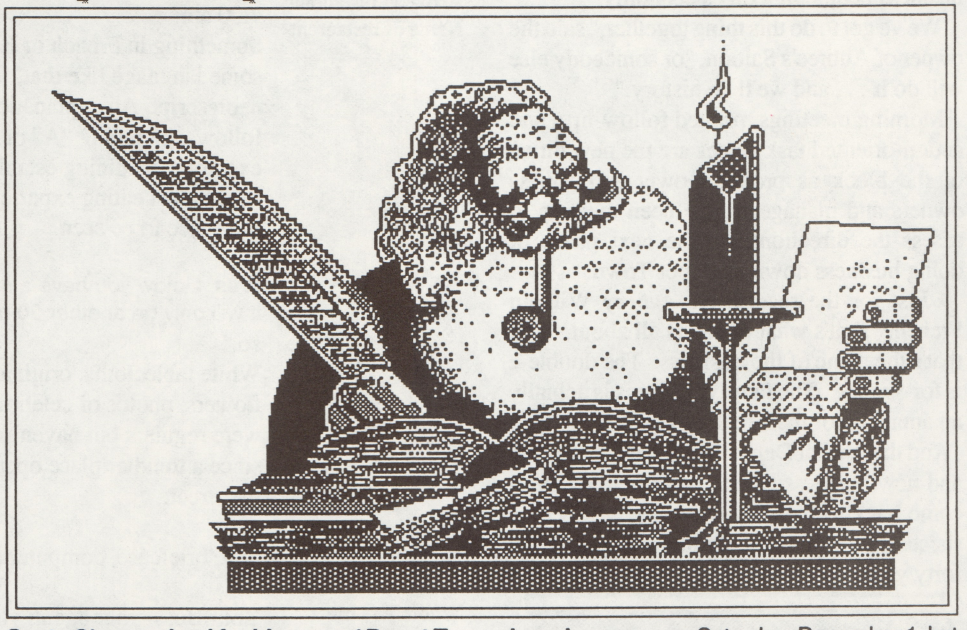
Saturday, December 1,
11am 'til dark

11 am - Santa's Parade
Carriage Rides
Ice Sculpture Demonstration
Holiday Crafats Bazaar
Our Lady Madrigal Singers
Tree Trimming
Photos with Santa
Baking Contest and Sale
Victorian Hair Weaving
Holiday Cooking Encounter
Business Open Houses
Historical Museum open 2-4 pm
. . . and lots more!

Thanks to our sponsors:

Depot Town Association • Ypsilanti Press
Fingerle Holister Wood Lumber Co.
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce
Spirit of Ypsilanti • Ann Arbor News

Depot People: Santa returns to the Freighthouse



Santa Claus arrived for his annual Depot Town shopping spree on Saturday, December 1, but he didn't bring his sleigh or reindeer. Instead, the jolly old elf arrived atop an antique fire engine from the Cross Street Bridge, and introduced by The Ypsilanti Press via the Willow Run Marching Band. After greeting his true believers along East Cross Street, he alighted to the Freighthouse where many tots had their pictures taken to remind grandparents about their plans for the rest of the month. Claus claimed it was his one hundred and forty-third visit to the old railroad district.

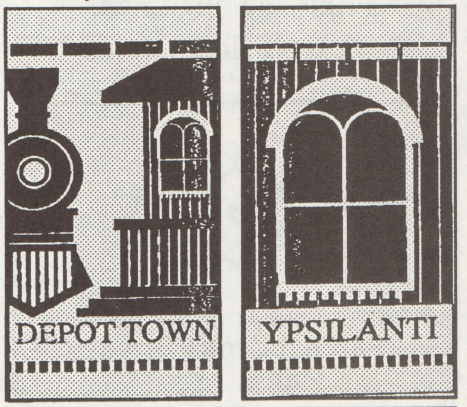
Districts' promotional banners made possible by DTA jazz profits; is the Signal Tower next?

"Nonprofit doesn't have to be a way of life," said Judi Monaghan, as she retired from her job as Association treasurer and handed the books over to Sally Richie of the Occasion Station. As DTA entered its 15th year, the Cash On Hand permitted the expenditure of $3500 for double banners touting the delights of the old railroad district from 15 light poles. The installation began at Huron Street and continued to the railroad tracks and around the corner onto North River Street. City DPW forces pledged to have the colorful flags mounted by the December 1 Victorian Holiday.

Never satisified with just one job well done, DTA president, Bill French of Aubree's Saloon, noted, "This just gets us all the more excited about the possility of erecting the Signal Tower. We still need a 'destination marker' that says, 'This is it. You're here. This is Depot Town.'" The replication of the octogon-topped two-story 1890's tower has been a long-range objective of the disttrict since the first dreams of forming a Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

"Perhaps these visible promotions can rekindle an interest in fund-raisers for the district," said Carolyn McKeever, a past DTA president and constant jazz promoter for the block.

Sally Richie and a committe of interested business folks met in October and November to make the banners a reality for the district. The design appears at right. . . .



Riverside Park's
Festival of Lights
Continuing thru December 31
Park in the Depot Town lots
and walk through the display this year!

"Let's not be 'history' until we have to be"

Bill French reports far greater merchant participation at daytime meetings during the first two months of his tenure as DTA president. As another one of the kids who grew up in the district while hanging around his dad's business, Bill, (and now, wife, Sandee) can well appreciate the hopes, dreams and anxieties of business people in today's economy.

"We've got to do this thing together," said the owner of Aubree's Saloon, "or somebody else will do it . . . and we'll be history."

Morning meetings, printed follow-ups, and action-oriented task forces are the new thrust of the block as property owners, business owners and managers have been meeting to assess the directions for the next phase of doing business down in Depot Town.

Just for the record, it's *Aubrey* William French. That's what the A. is all about. And that's the name of the business. The double-e is for *Sandee*. The family business is actually an amalgam of their real first names.

And that's what Depot Town is all about: old and new businesses with an old ethic. Welcome back to the way we were. It's been a successful formula for about one hundred and forty years.

CITY BODY

20 East Cross Street

Front end alignment
& Collision repair

SIDETRACK

Good Food, Good Drinks, Good Times
56 East Cross Street
483-1053

Ike's Depot
Barbershop
40 East Cross

The was it *was*
is the way were *are*!

The *Power* Breakfast vs. the *Real* (Depot Town) Breakfast

- from Keith Robinson, Universal Press Syndicate

Power Breakfast. The FAST track. REAL Breakfast. The RIGHT track!

Recently, breakfast has become THE meal at which to put together high-level deals. This means that expense account coin is now available much earlier in the day, which means that fancy restaurants that used to never open before 11:45 are now open at the crack of dawn serving kiwi-and-goat-cheese omelet. How to tell one of these power breakfasts from a good, old-fashioned REAL breakfast? With this handy chart, of course.

	THE POWER BREAKFAST	THE REAL BREAKFAST
Time you wake up	5:00 am	10:17 am
Arrive at restaurant	7:00 am	10:24 am
Name of restaurant	Something in French or Italian or some language like that, written in neon script. An explanation often follows, including "A" or "An." For example: "A dining establishment," "An Italian eating experience," or "A place to be seen.	Includes owner's first name and/or the word "Muffin," "Pancake," "Waffle," or "Coffee" (especially if spelled with a "K"). Alliteration is perticularly good ("Muffin Mill," "Waffle World," "Koffee Kart," or "Paul's Pancake Palace").
Ambiance	"Yes, I know you have a reservation. It will only be another 30 minutes or so." White tablecloths, original art, fresh flowers, photos of celebrities who were regulars but haven't come in since a trendier place opened down the street.	"Hi, Normy. It's about a half-hour wait. I'll put you on the list." Formica, sports posters, no-pest strips, photos of local residents who were regulars but haven't come in since they died over a decade ago.
Dress code	Suit, briefcase, computer datebook.	Come as you are.
Whom you meet	Your Boss, your agent, your head-hunter, your lawyer, your senator, etc. "They're ripe for a take-over bid!" "Ha! We'll have 'em for Breakfast!"	The guy on the next stool. "Are the peaches ripe? Yum! I'll have 'em for breakfast!"
What's discussed	General preliminary outline on subject to be firmed up at later, more formal meeting.	How to eliminate the deficit, apartheid, the drug problem, and the designated hitter rule.
Your waiter	Struggling actor/actress. Will eventually open trendier restaurant down the street.	The owner, or a waitress you've known longer than your spouse.
What you eat	Something you've never heard of but that the waiter assures you is low-fat, low-cholesterol, and is very popular with Michael Eisner.	Eggs, bacon, pancakes, syrup, muffins, hash browns, butter, juice, and a thick, black, steaming cup of Joe. You know, Breakfast!
The bill (per person)	$22.90. Put it on American Express; it's deductible.	$4.57 cash. "We'll give credit when the bank serves waffles."
Where to next?	To work.	To bed.

Or try an evening meal in one of our several food emporia. Same homey service. And then you can *walk* down to the Festival of Lights!

Dateline:
Depot Town

• **Note the new blue neon** on the front and back of Hansen's Standard Printing. Somehow, 1920's neon designs seem to go so well with our 19th Century buildings. Maybe it reminds us of the old movies we used to see until we discovered the real thing here in Ypsilanti.

• **A community meeting and potluck brunch** will be held at the Depot Town Sourdough Bakery Sunday, December 9th. The brunch starts at 11 am with the meeting from noon until 2 pm. All are welcome to help this community-owned Bakery join its new community. Stop by the Bakery at 310 North River Street or call Tom Kenny at 487-8110.

• **A Quilt theme** is being considered by district promoters to continue throughout 1991. DTA president, Bill French, characterized this business district as a "creative patchwork of commercial enterprises," and the image began to grow from that moment.

Slogans, mottoes and concepts have been growing through the autumn season: A stitch in time / Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town, A patchwork of friendly specialty shops, Folkart in the strip mall, ad infinitum! Keep this sewing bee going.

District quilters and artists continue to play with the concept and encourage all to add to the idea pile for advertising themes, window displays and more quilt-related themes to boost this old block for 1991.

• Post your item here next month.

Let's walk to the Festival of Lights -- *from Depot Town!*

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op presents
COOKING ENCOUNTERS
on Saturday, December 1, 11 am to 5 pm.
This month's program features
Holiday Gifts of Food
Learn about special treats made from wholesome co-op ingredients. Samples and recipes will be available.
312 N. River in Ypsilanti's Depot Town.
For information call 483-1520

Teacher's Shop & LEARNING CENTER, LTD.
YOUR K12 CONNECTION
all materials for CLASSROOMS & CURRICULA
313-482-8373
16 E. CROSS STREET
YPSILANTI, MI. 48198

Consider *Quilt Themes* for your 1991 advertising! A patchwork of commercial creativity!

Aubree's
Pool is Cool
39 East Cross Street

THE OCCASION STATION
Still serving *Miller's* Ice Cream
NOW OFFERING . . .
• Cards • Wrapping Paper • Candy
• Helium Balloons • Cookies • Gifts
• Jelly Bellys • Recycled Paper Products
• Mugs • Stationery • T-shirts • Souvenirs
Open All Year 485-7546
42 East Cross
YPSILANTI, MI

Copy for 1990 *Rag* sponsors is due at The Old Caboose by the 3rd Thursday of December. Sponsors are encouraged to pay for the year in advance whenever possible.

T E D'S
Auto Electric
307 North River • 483-1238

MYOMASSOLOGIST
Joan M. Scully
Massage Therapy
434-5317
Recovery Oriented• Women's Issues
Stress Relief • Therapeutic Massage
Reflexology
Gift Certificates available

Depot Town Sourdough Bakery
Depot Town Sourdough Bakery
310 N. River St.
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
313-487-8110
Also available at:
• Arbor Farms
• Busch's Value Land
• Fourth Ave. Food Co-op
• Packard Food Co-op
• Produce Station
• Ypsilanti Food Co-op
• Zingerman's

WHAT MAKES THIS BREAD UNIQUE?
• These round loaves and rolls are called Desem, the Flemish word for leaven. The Desem is made by fermenting whole wheat flour and water. Given the proper environment, "wild yeasts" break down the grain making it easily digestible. The gaseous by-product provides the leavening and mildly sour taste to the bread.
• The loaves are baked in a uniquely designed wood-fired brick oven which gives the bread a special texture and flavor that cannot be duplicated, as well as utilizing a renewable resource.
• The flours used are organic. They are stoneground and aged three to five days before using. The water is drawn from a local 150-foot well and the salt is unrefined sea salt from the Lima Corp. of France.
• The bakery is a community owned and supported nonprofit corporation. All profits are turned back to the bakery for further growth, educational endeavors, and development as a bakery.

Cable TV & Video games
FREE Delivery
Red Rooster Pizza
. . . and Dairy Bar
37 East Cross • 483-4555

Depot Town Association, Inc. November, 1990

Meeting caalled to order at 7:42 pm by president, A. William French.

Minutes of October approved as read.

Treasury: $4306.15

President French introduced a **five-year business plan** with immediate goal to "double the block's foot traffic in the first year."

"Communications" will become a regular agenda item to apprise the membership of projects, letters and other Association business.

Victorian Holiday will be touted through 5000 flyers, *The Ann Arbor News, The Ypsilanti Press, Metro Times,* WIQB, WAAM, WEMU and *The Rag*. Volunteers are still needed for special events on December 1. Sally Richie expects this to be Ypsilanti's "Best (short) Parade."

Banners should be in place on the light poles by December 1st, thanks to the City's DPW. The $3200 order will cover only one flag per pole, rather than the expected pairs. Additions may be made later. Electricity has been installed to light the pine tree at the tracks. Another tree will appear in the pedestrian walkway. Building lights will complement the Festival of Lights.

Membership lists are being prepared with three different solicitation letters to be mailed to potential and past interesteds. Bonnie Rosen-Fine suggests printing new and renewing members in the monthly Rag.

The Ark/DTA contract for the Frog Island Festival is near approval with (1) name, (2) venue, (3) first right of refusal, (4) program and (5) buy-out nearly agreed upon.

501(c)3 search is nearly complete in order to facility Linda Yohn's grant application from Gilbey's Jazz Program. Talks are under way with the City for a spring jazz event in the Freighthouse. A local bank is considering sponsoring Heritage Jazz Competition.

8:30 pm - City officials arrive. Mayor Clyde King, Mayor protem Danny Hoffman, Community & Economic Development Director Mike Agar.

Agar- City is committed to district planning. Many new Farmers' Market events are scheduled. Grants are being sought for multi-events in the Freighthouse. "I definitely think we should be working together as far as integrating our plans." "There's a lot of energy here. We (City) need to gear up and get going with you."

King - The first step is to "develop a plan for the Freighthouse and businesses." "What role do you want the City to play?" We would develop (a plan) and both sign it and both be committed to it. "Ypsilanti's 'come-back' started down here."

Hoffman- "A problem down here is . . . you've got different people singing out of different song books."

Farmers' Market - Planning together, mobile installations, 7-day, 5-day operations?

DDA - Unify the district? Probably not. Tax Increment Financing? Maybe. Maybe not.

MCRR Depot - Speculative investment? "City not in a position to push the project," says Agar. Thompson Block litigations needs to be updated.

Parking promises of a year and a half ago? Lines on the street and two signs showing north side lot?

The Golden Goose Award - to 'scoflaws' who haven't paid annual DTA dues, or *Rag* sponsors overdue, or both. - to the tree breakers near the Follett House.

The Best Yet Award - to Sally Richie and Steve Gross for their able steering of the Victorian Holiday committee. - to the City officials who responded to DTA's five-year business plan.

New or renewing DTA members:

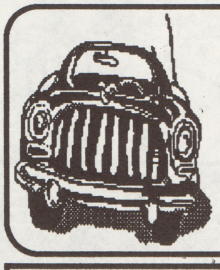
Gary & Carolyn McKeever
James & Betty Campbell
Kirk Profit Linda Yohn
Newel Block Apts.
Ed Fine & Bonni Rosen-Fine
Depot Exchange Antiques
Kerry & Larry Dickinson

Trade a Paperback for one of Barb's for only 70c plus tax! Crazy!

Crazy Barb's
Paperback Book Exchange!

Mon-Sat 11am-6:00pm
50 East Cross 484-4564

Your local ad here
for only $10 a month.



City Radiator
100 North River
483-2248

PIANO LESSONS
in my Depot Town studio
Steve Gustafson
485-3765

December 1990

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

Development Authority (DDA)
7:30 p.m. Thursday 12/12
Freighthouse Coffeeshop

Association
7:30 p.m. Thursday, 12/19
The Old Caboose

Antique Engine Club
5:00 p.m. Thursday, 12/1
German Park, Pontiac Trail

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

-Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
William French, president
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Active Memberships :
- Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce
- Washtenaw Council for the Arts
- Neighborhood Associations of Michigan

You can rent The Old Caboose for your
• Birthday Party • Anniversary
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Call 483-4256.

Hansen's
Standard Printing
(313) 483-0339
Wishing you a Christ filled Holiday

4,200 cars cross East Cross/North River daily,

and most of them turn into Depot Town's busy block.

Who are these people and what are they doing down in Depot Town?

These folks live in Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Township, Barton Hills Village, Pittsfield Township, Scio Township, Webster Township, Superior Townshilp, Ypsilanti Township and Ypsilanti.

Average household income-$31,750.

Average persons per household	3
Average age	32

1990 % of population by age:

7.4%	0 - 5 years
16.0%	6 - 17 years
39.8%	18- 34 years
22.9%	35 - 54 years
6.5%	55 - 64 years
7.4%	65+ years

18 + years of age = 76.6%

1990 % of households by income:

21.9%	under $15,000
38.1%	under $25,000
33.5%	$25,000- $49,000
28.5%	$50,000 +

1990 % of educational attainment

41.5%	College graduate or more
18.8%	Some college
22.2%	High school graduate
17.5%	Some high school
14.1%	Median years education

- Source: 1989 Nielsen Media Research

Shoppers' Survey begun

Sidetrack, Aubree's and Old Town have begun to survey their customers regarding shopping habits in Depot Town.

One respondent will be picked each week for a free lunch for two at any of the three restaurants. Ask your waitperson.

Depot Town tenant detail:

Commercial = 41 Residential = 42

1 each:

Auto Body Repairing, Auto Electric Service
Baker, Book Dealer, Drapery & Curtains
Electronic Supplies, Floritsts, Importers
Newspaper, Picture Framing, Printers
School Supplies, Stage Lighting
Auto Radiator Repairing, Clothing Resale
Dress Maker, Gifts/Novelty, PIzza Parlor
Photographer, Trading Post
Farmers' Market

2 each:

Barber Shops, Beauty Shops
Food Markets, Ice Cream Parlors

4 each:

Liquor Licenses, Antique Dealers
Restaurants

Holiday Bazaars set for the season

The Ypsilanti Farmers' Market annual Freightouse Holday Bazaar schedule for 1990 will began with an 'early bird' bazaar on November 10, with four other Bazaars scheduled for November and December. Each Bazaar will feature crafts and gifts exhibitors, Christmas wreaths and decorations, live entertainment, and holiday food items from the Marketplace food shops.

All craft stalls are filled for the additional November 24, December 1, 8, and 15 Bazaars. The December 1 Bazaar will conicide with the annual Victorian Holiday celebration in Depot Town.

Freighthouse Holdiay Bazaars

7am-3pm
December 1, 8 and 15, 1990
in the Freighthouse, down by the tracks, in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town

310 N. River St. 313-487-8110

MESSINA'S CHEESE
At the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market
Wed or Sat 483-1480 or 459-1995 any time

Organic, Amish Raised
FRESH TURKEYS
At the lowest prices in town!

The Ypsi Gypsy's TOP TEN AWARDS of the decade:

[As any elementary school kid will tell you, the decade doesn't start in the '-0' year, but in the '-1' year. 1990 was the end of the Eighties; the Nineties begin with 1991. We count decades one-through-ten. The Twenty First Century begins in 2001; not 2000.]

Herewith is a wrap-up of the Eighties in Ypsilanti, - seen from the perspective of Depot Town's old caboose (firmly rooted in the past with a clear view forward).

1. **Biggest artifact representing a new age of architectural design:** The Owen College of Business Giant Water Slide and Care Bears Park; **prettiest new artifact:** Cross Street Bridge.
2. **Number of City Managers:** 5 (Steve Shutt, Van Whaler, Matt Hennessee, Bob Slone, Herbert Gilsdorf).
3. **Buildings restored or renovated back to their original design:** Depot Town 11; downtown Ypsilanti 29.
4. **Jazz events staged in Depot Town:** 64 (Winter Series 34, Frog Island Festivals = 12 days, Heritage Jazz Competitions 15 days, Special events 3); projects jazz profits funded: 8+ (billboard, welcome sign, electric lighting on sign, the caboose, promotions, radio ads, flowers, scoflaw's bills)
5. **Ypsilanti township beauty parlors still creating 1960's bouffant hairdos:** 8.
6. **Good newspaper restaurant reviews for Ann Arbor area's Radisson Resort:** 0.
7. **Heavy Metal country music awards conferred upon Saturday morning performers at the Farmers' Market:** 3.
8. **Trees growing in the old railroad district:** 18 ; flower beds =24.
9. **Properties excluded from the Depot Town Downtown Development Authority (DDA):** 6; properties wishing to be included in a reformed DDA : 5.
10. **City Councilmembers elected from Ward Five:** 2; active in neighborhood promotions: 1.

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1st CLASS FARE

Carl & Judy offer:
- Gourmet Coffee Beans whole or freshly ground
- Fresh Cut Flowers
- Rocky Top Jams & Non Alcoholic Sparkling Wines
- Uncle Mum's Romesco Sauce

Saturdays at the Farmers' Market

RAGTIME

YPSI FOOD COOP

Bulk Herbs, Spices, Teas, & Coffees

312 N. River St.

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483-1520

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Ypsilanti - 482-7749
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IMAGE PHOTO LAB

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11 East Cross — **482-3370**

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44 E. Cross St. • 487-1970

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Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
23 E. Cross Street
483-3637

J. R. TRADING POST

GENERAL STORE

Old, New and In-Between Things
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HATS for Men and Women
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RIVER ARTWORKS

PROFESSIONAL CUSTOM FRAMERS
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48 EAST CROSS STREET
in Historic Depot Town
QUALITY• TIMELY SERVICE

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482-2124

A friendly, family kind of place

Olde Towne Coin & Gold
24 East Cross

We buy & sell coins, 14K jewelry
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THOMPSON BUILDING MALL
Antiques and Stained Glass
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Buying & Selling of Estates and/or Single Items

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&
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Next to Sidetrack
Professional Stripping & Refinishing

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Designs On You Stitchin' Shop

- Gowns for all occasions
- Custom Apparel
- Evening & Career Wear
- Alterations
- Patterns created

482-2010
27 E. Cross

Tues-Fri 10 am -6 pm
Sat 10 am - 5 pm
Evenings by appt.

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